

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00
SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
L-03 AID-05 MCE-00 PC-01 MCT-01 SCS-06 NSCE-00
/105 R

DRAFTED BY STF:RLKATES
APPROVED BY STF:LDJUNIOR
S-S/O:TGMARTIN

-----078465 221532Z /75

O 221431Z MAY 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 129376

BOGOTA FOR UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA SITREP NO. 15 0600 HOURS (EDT)
MAY 22, 1978

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND AND FOR DISCREET
USE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:

2. SITUATION OF AMERICANS -- UNCHANGED: ONE AMERICAN
IS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR AND ASSUMED DEAD.

3. SITUATION IN KOLWEZI -- THE FRENCH PARATROOPERS HAVE
NOW SWEEPED MOST OF KOLWEZI AND ITS SUBURBS. THEY APPARENT-
LY DO NOT HAVE THE MOBILE EQUIPMENT TO PURSUE THE KATANGANS
FLEEING TOWARD ZAMBIA AND THE ANGOLAN BORDER. OUR EMBASSY
IN ZAMBIA REPORTS THAT RETREATING KATANGANS IN 54
VEHICLES MAY HAVE ALREADY CROSSED INTO ZAMBIA. THERE
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IS NO INDICATION YET WHETHER THE KATANGANS HAVE HOSTAGES
WITH THEM. THE EVACUATION IS ALL BUT COMPLETE WITH
APPROXIMATELY 1,900 PERSONS HAVING BEEN MOVED OUT OF
KOLWEZI. THE BELGIAN FORCES ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN
MOVING BACK FROM KOLWEZI TO KAMINA MAY 22 AND TO
BRUSSELS MAY 23. BELGIAN SOURCES REPORT THAT THE
EXPATRIATE BODY COUNT AT KOLWEZI NOW STANDS AT 125.
BASED ON FIRST HAND REPORTS FROM US EVACUEES OUR EMBASSY
IN KINSHASA BELIEVES THAT:

-- THE ATTACK ON KOLWEZI WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED AND
IMPLEMENTED,

-- THE ZAIRIAN FORCES WERE INEFFECTIVE IN DEFENDING
THE CITY,

-- THERE IS NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE OF CUBAN OR OTHER
NON-AFRICAN TROOPS,

-- THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION WAS APATHETIC,

-- THE INVADERS SOUGHT TO TERRORIZE THE EXPATRIATES,

AND

-- MOST EXPATRIATES WILL NOT RETURN UNLESS THEY ARE ASSURED OF BETTER SECURITY.

THE EMBASSY IS CONVINCED THAT THE GUERRILLA ATTACK ON KOLWEZI AND THE RESULTANT INTERRUPTION IN COPPER PRODUCTION WILL FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE COUNTRY'S FALTERING ECONOMY AS WELL AS PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S ERODING POPULAR SUPPORT.

4. CUBA ISSUES DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA -- THE CUBAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAY 21 OFFICIALLY DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHABA AFFAIR. IN ITS SECRET

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STATEMENT THE GOVERNMENT CHARACTERIZED THE ATTACK ON KOLWEZI AS AN INTERNAL ZAIRIAN PROBLEM AND SPECIFICALLY DENIED TRAINING THE KATANGANS OR SUPPLYING EQUIPMENT TO THEM.

5. STATUS OF AIR SUPPORT MISSION -- ON GENERAL BABIA'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO TRANSPORT FUEL FROM KINSHASA TO KAMINA IN SUPPORT OF FRENCH OPERATIONS IN KOLWEZI; THE FRENCH HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS AND SHOULD THEY SEE A NEED THEY WILL MAKE THE REQUEST THROUGH EUCOM RATHER THAN THROUGH GENERAL BABIA.

6. MOROCCANS -- AN "ADVANCE PARTY" OF 11 MOROCCANS IS IN KINSHASA HEADED BY THE SAME COLONEL WHO LED THE MOROCCAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE DURING SHABA I. THEIR PRESENCE HAS GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION THAT A CONTINGENT OF MOROCCANS WILL RETURN TO ZAIRE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE129376
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLKATES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780215-0688
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780533/aaaabbgb.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 48b50799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2614673
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA SITREP NO. 15 0600 HOURS (EDT) MAY 22, 1978
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, AEMR, CG
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/48b50799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014